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REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 1, 2003 has been received and reviewed. Claims 6-18 are pending and are rejected in view of cited references. Claims 6-12, 14, 15 and 18 are amended.

The Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance for the reasons stated hereinafter.

Objection To Claims

The Examiner objects to claims 6, 11, 12, 15 and 18 for certain informalities, which have been addressed by amendment of those claims.

Rejection Of Claims 6-8, 11-5 and 18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 6-8, 11-15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Naegeli (USPN 2,935,767). As amended, claims independent 6 and 12 require a threaded spindle having at least one projecting shoulder the outer diameter of which is slightly less than the interior diameter of the threaded area of a tool. Support for the amendment is found in the drawings and at paragraph [0012] of the specification. The specification teaches and illustrates that the slightly smaller diameter of the projecting shoulders (63, 65) aids in guiding the threaded spindle into place within the corresponding threaded area of the tool pieces and concurrently aligns the tool pieces so that there is no angular movement between the tool pieces as they are being joined. Naegeli fails to teach such structure. While Naegeli discloses a threaded bolt having short cylindrical portions (14) at either end, the diameters of the cylindrical portions are significantly smaller than the interior diameter D of the threaded areas of the tool pieces and, as a result, the cylindrical portions cannot guide the bolt into place, nor provide angular alignment of the tool pieces as they are being joined. That is,

angular movement between the two tool pieces is permissible in Naegeli because the outer diameter of the cylindrical portions do not approximate the interior diameter of the threaded areas of the tool pieces. Therefore, Naegeli neither anticipates nor obviates independent claims 6 and 12, and those claims which depend therefrom and include the limitations of each, respectively. Additionally, Naegeli fails to teach two threaded sections of opposite directional threading as required by claims 9, 10, 16 and 17. Naegeli also fails to teach means for rotating the threaded spindle as required by claims 11 and 18.

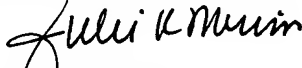
Rejection Of Claims 6-18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 6-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oshnock et al. ("Oshnock") in view of Naegeli. The Examiner states that Oshnock discloses the device as claimed, except that Oshnock fails to disclose a threaded spindle having a shoulder the outside diameter of which is smaller than the interior diameter of the associated threaded area of the tool parts, which, the Examiner states, is taught by Naegeli. As noted by the Examiner, Oshnock fails to teach a threaded spindle having one or more projecting shoulders and, therefore, the Oshnock device is not directed to a configuration which guides the threaded spindle into place between the tool pieces while assuring proper angular alignment as claimed. Further, as stated above, Naegeli fails to provide projecting shoulders with the claimed diameter sized for guiding and angularly aligning the tool pieces as claimed. Therefore, even if Naegeli were combined with Oshnock, the resulting combination would not obviate the present claims. Neither Oshnock nor Naegeli recognize or appreciate the placement and alignment benefits derived from the claimed projecting shoulder and one of skill in the art would not derive any teaching from either reference that would obviate the claimed subject matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments made and the arguments presented, the Applicant submits that claims 6-18 present patentable subject matter. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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